

CB 8/6

PCT

28 FEB 2005

To:

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Dansom Lane  
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TO:

CMB

TO:

1113P4

CASE NUMBER

1113P4

WJ

DIARY

Kit

RECORDS

Date of mailing  
(day/month/year)

02.06.2004

Applicant's or agent's file reference  
11113P4 WO/CMB

INVOICE

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within 3 month(s)  
from the above date of mailing

International application No.  
PCT/GB 03/03689

International filing date (day/month/year)  
26.08.2003

Priority date (day/month/year)  
02.09.2002

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC  
C08J7/04, C08J7/04

Applicant  
RECKITT BENCKISER N.V. et al.

RECEIVED

- 7 JUN 2004

RECKITT BENCKISER

1. This written opinion is the **first** drawn up by this International Preliminary Examining Authority.
2. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:
  - I ☒ Basis of the opinion
  - II ☐ Priority
  - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
  - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
  - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
  - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
  - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
  - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application
3. The applicant is hereby **invited to reply** to this opinion.

**When?** See the time limit indicated above. The applicant may, before the expiration of that time limit, request this Authority to grant an extension, see Rule 66.2(d).

**How?** By submitting a written reply, accompanied, where appropriate, by amendments, according to Rule 66.3. For the form and the language of the amendments, see Rules 66.8 and 66.9.

**Also:** For an additional opportunity to submit amendments, see Rule 66.4.  
For the examiner's obligation to consider amendments and/or arguments, see Rule 66.4 bis.  
For an informal communication with the examiner, see Rule 66.6.

**If no reply is filed**, the international preliminary examination report will be established on the basis of this opinion.
4. The final date by which the international preliminary examination report must be established according to Rule 69.2 is: 02.01.2005

Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:



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**I. Basis of the opinion**

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this opinion as "originally filed"*):

**Description, Pages**

1-19 as originally filed

**Claims, Numbers**

1-19 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
  - ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
  - ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).
3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:
- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
  - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
  - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
  - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
  - ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
  - ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.
4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages:
  - ☐ the claims, Nos.:
  - ☐ the drawings, sheets:
5. ☐ This opinion has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).
6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

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Novelty (N)	Claims	1-5,8-13,15-19
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	6,7,14
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	

**2. Citations and explanations****see separate sheet****BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

**Re Item V**

**Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: WO-A-0136290

D2: EP-A-0406623

1. The subject-matter of claims 1 to 5, 8 to 13 and 15 to 19 of the present application appears to be novelty anticipated (Article 33(2) PCT) by the articles described in documents D1 and D2 (see passages cited in the search report) comprising a skin formed from compositions comprising a water-soluble polymer and a water-soluble filler or additive.
2. The subject-matter of claims 6 and 14 appears to be obviously derivable (Article 33(3) PCT) from the teachings of D1 to those skilled in the art as the claims involve the use of known sulphonated polymers as a water-soluble polymer in the water-soluble compositions of D1 (claim 6), or the incorporation therein of a typical laundry additive like a polyphosphate (claim 14). Concerning the sulphonated polymers which may be prepared from the monomers disclosed in claim 7 of the application, it is not apparent that they could solve the technical problem underlying the invention (see page 2, last paragraph to page 3, last paragraph of the application) as said monomers appear to contain multiple unsaturated moieties (Article 33(3) PCT).
4. In case of filing substitute amended sheets, and in order to facilitate the examination of the conformity of the amended application with the requirements of Article 34(2)(b) EPC, the applicant is requested to clearly identify the amendments carried out, irrespective of whether they concern amendments by addition, replacement or deletion, and to indicate the passages of the application as filed on which these amendments are based. If the applicant regards it as appropriate these indications could be submitted in handwritten form on a copy of the relevant parts of the application as filed.

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